or such a mistake in tactics. It may be doubted, however, whether in the circumstances there was ever any possibility of the Conference succeeding, and whether, if it had succeeded in reaching an agreement, that agreement would have proved of any greater worth than, for instance, the Kellogg Pact. The Philistines might have discussed laying down their weapons while Samson's head was still shorn, but without ever agreeing to do so, since each would have known in his heart that hair inevitably grew again, however closely cut. And when Samson's shorn head began visibly to sprout, how anxiously would they not have sharpened their swords and reckoned up their numbers.

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While the Disarmament Conference was in session, in a near-by building the League Assembly discussed Japan's invasion of Manchuria. A policy-holder had come forward to claim the benefits promised, and the board of directors met to consider what was to be done about it. The policy-holder concerned was unimportant and in arrears, it is true; but the validity of the claim presented could not plausibly be questioned. One League member had infringed the territorial integrity of another, and by the terms of the Covenant, of which both were signatories, should be reprimanded; if reprimands proved unavailing, forced to withdraw from the territory wrongfully occupied.

Laboriously, the League machinery was put in motion. Resolutions were adopted, and a Committee of Twelve set up,

presided over by Briand, this being almost his last task of the kind, exhaustion causing him sometimes to fall asleep even while one of the Twelve urged Japan to be moderate, China to avoid

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derry's reservation, an agreement abolishing air-bombardment would have been concluded, it is highly improbable that, in view of subsequent develop-ments, such an agreement would ever have become operative. At most, Lord Londonderry's guilt may be compared to that of a small boy who, seeing a gang of men bent on setting fire to a house, allows them to strike a matci on the sole of Ms shoe.